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REMARKS

Claims 2 to 15, and 17 to 19 remain pending in the application without any change from the last amendment dated January 9, 2006.

The Office Action (OA) rejects claims 2 to 15, and 17 to 19, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Eklund, publication WO 02/087713. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and reconsideration is respectfully requested on the following grounds.

The OA states in the Office Action dated 03/24/2006 that Eklund discloses *"receiving a bet by purchasing a ticket with different configurations, game card 1 with a plurality of areas at 2, randomly selecting a first subset at 4, marking or daubing the game area matrix (abstract, ln.10) and designating a winner depending upon a pattern formed (pg. 5, para. 2)"*.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference "must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present." (MPEP §706.02). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Clearly, the OA does not teach every aspect of the claimed invention. The OA's passage cited above does not show, neither is it disclosed in Eklund, that each game card bears **all designations of said set of designations**.

In his publication, Eklund discloses a bingo game presenting different characteristics. For example, at page 5 of the publication, end of the third paragraph and beginning of the fourth paragraph:

*"... The symbols in the matrix are selected at random from a particular set of symbols, which according to an embodiment of the invention consists of the numbers 1 – 75. In this case, the matrix is preferably designed as a field comprising 5*5 positions.*

In a second step 20, a called symbol field is applied, comprising a subset of the said particular set of symbols. ..."
(emphasis added)

Again, Eklund does not teach that each game card bears all designations of said set of designations.

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In view of the foregoing arguments, the Applicant therefore believes the OA's rejections of claims 2 to 15, and 17 to 19 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, in view of the foregoing arguments, the rejection of claim 7-15 under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) are now moot.

It is submitted, therefore, that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the OA's rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 2 to 15, and 17 to 19 at an early date is solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response to the Office Action or the application in general, the OA is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 21, 2006

By:



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Agent of record

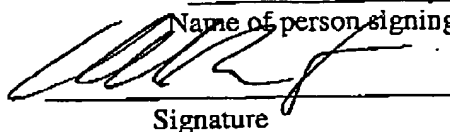
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